

Free magazine for households across South and West Sheffield

# SHEFFIELD TODAY

## Fighting waste

Campaigning to get a better deal for Sheffield taxpayers

## Standing up for our NHS

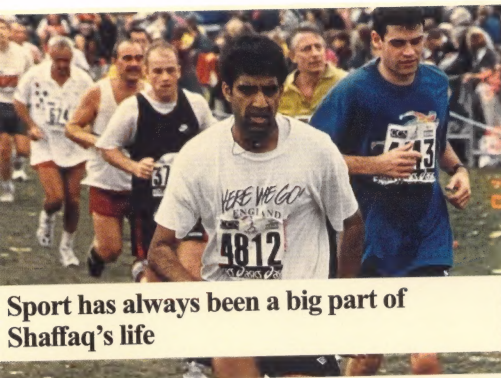
Fighting for Sheffield's health services and to end the GP shortage

**Inside:** An exclusive interview with...

# SHAFFAQ MOHAMMED

The local campaigner tipped to be Sheffield Hallam's next MP

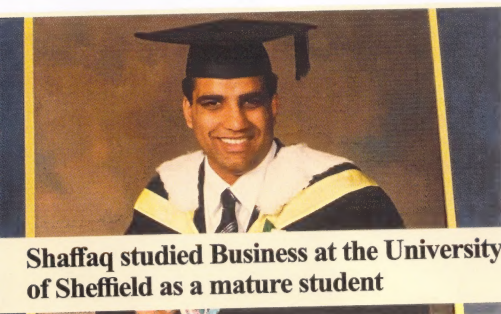




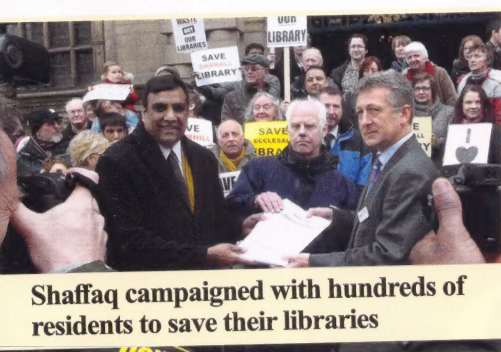
Sport has always been a big part of Shaffaq's life



The Co-Op gave Shaffaq his first job. He was quickly promoted to be a manager



Shaffaq studied Business at the University of Sheffield as a mature student



Shaffaq campaigned with hundreds of residents to save their libraries



Shaffaq was awarded an MBE in 2015 for his years of service to our city.

# Shaffaq Mohammed

## TELLS US HIS STORY AND WHY HE'S STANDING TO BE THE NEXT MP FOR SHEFFIELD HALLAM

**Speaking with Shaffaq Mohammed, it is immediately clear just how passionate he is about Sheffield.**

Sheffield is Shaffaq's home. He grew up here - and as a qualified Youth Worker he has dedicated his life to supporting people in this city get on in life.

Now he is taking on a new campaign - to become the next MP for Sheffield Hallam. We ask him what motivates him to want to represent his home city in Parliament...

"Sheffield has done so much for me and my family over the years," Shaffaq said. "It gave me the chance to make a career and raise a family. Our three kids have all grown up here - and I am proud of all of them. My eldest son works for Northern Rail. My youngest son has just qualified as a Paramedic and my daughter is doing her A-levels.

"Like any father, I want them to live in a city that is thriving, with real opportunities. But sadly Sheffield has been badly let down in recent years by those at the top. I want to change that - and give something back to the city that

has given me so much."

It's clear from talking to Shaffaq how serious he is about getting the best deal for our city.

**"I believe Sheffield deserves better - and I'm determined to fight for our city."**

"I've seen what a difference having a Liberal Democrat MP has made for Sheffield in the past," added Shaffaq.

"Unfortunately though, Sheffield has too often been held back - by Labour politicians who are stuck in their ways and use us for their political games.

"I'm not interested in playing politics. I'm interested in getting a better future for our city and everyone who lives here."

After leaving school, Shaffaq's first job was with the Sheffield Co-op.

"It was hard work, but rewarding - I got to serve the communities of Hillsborough, Stannington, and Loxley. It taught me many lessons that are still relevant now."





# All about Shaffaq ...

## Professional experience:

Shaffaq is a Youth Worker, who helps young people in Sheffield access education, employment and training. He has been a Councillor for Ecclesall ward for nearly ten years.

## Community campaigning:

Shaffaq has decades of experience as a campaigner for Sheffield. He has demanded better bus services, safer roads, and cleaner streets. He works with community groups and fights for the issues that matter to local people.

## Hobbies:

Shaffaq is a big cricket fan and also supports Sheffield Wednesday. He used to play for the Sheffield Co-op football team. He likes walking and has taken part in a number of charity challenges, raising money for the Sheffield Floods, local groups and international charities.



He now works as a Youth Worker, alongside serving the city as a local Councillor.

“One of the things I really enjoy about being a Councillor is that everyday I get people contacting me and asking me to help them.

“I love being able to make a real difference to people’s lives - it is what I got into politics to do.”

“I love being able to make a difference to people’s lives - it is what I got into politics to do.”

In 2019, Shaffaq was elected to the European Parliament to represent Yorkshire.

Although only there for a short time, it gave him vast experience of dealing with senior people in governments and pushing our region’s case.

“It was an honour to represent Yorkshire on the international stage,” he added. “Obviously it was a tumultuous period for the country, but it laid bare just how damaging that time has been for the UK’s long term future.

“If we want to safeguard jobs and prosperity in South Yorkshire, it’s clear that we need to put petty arguments behind us and rebuild relationships.

“I know I can use my experience to make a real contribution to that as our next MP.”





“The impact of the NHS on my life is huge. This is why I am so determined to protect it”

**There is no issue closer to the hearts of local residents than our NHS. But years of underinvestment and looming cuts to local services and GP shortages have left people in Sheffield concerned for the future.**

Local health campaigner Shaffaq Mohammed has made safeguarding our NHS his top priority.

“The NHS is incredibly important to my family. My eldest son was born with a hole in the heart, he had three major operations to repair this issue. I’m so incredibly grateful to the surgeons, doctors, consultants and nurses who helped care for him allowing him to lead a normal life working in the railway industry.

My younger son, Adil, is training to be a paramedic. I’m really proud of him. However, speaking to him I know that the NHS is now really suffering after years of underinvestment.

**“The NHS has been central to my family. I’m determined to fight for it**

From record waiting times, to patients spending hours in A&E, to delayed cancer treatments, it seems everyday things are getting worse.

“You can’t help but be in awe of the heroes that have kept our NHS going through the pandemic,” Shaffaq



Shaffaq Mohammed knows from his own experience. He is determined to keep fighting for our health.

says. “In the face of great personal risk, they worked every hour possible to help the country in our hour of need.

“But as the pressures of the pandemic ease, the extent of our NHS crisis is laid bare. People are waiting weeks for a simple GP referral, ambulances can take hours to arrive, mental health appointments and routine operations have been delayed for months.

“Sadly, years of underinvestment in the NHS have led us to this point.”

**For many Sheffield residents, even getting a routine GP appointment can be very hard.**

With more doctors leaving the profession every week due to the unrelenting pressure, the situation shows no sign of improvement.

Shaffaq said, “Hard-working GPs are overstretched and people are left waiting too long for treatment or even an appointment.

“Sheffield deserves an MP who will work around the clock to urgently boost funding in





the NHS is at the heart of Shaffaq's family. He is pictured here with his son Adil who has recently qualified as a paramedic

experience how important the NHS is. in service.

our local GP services. Nothing is more important to me than making sure local people have access to high quality healthcare."



Shaffaq regularly talks to doctors about the issues facing the NHS

# “We won’t forget the damage done to our city...”

**A knock on the door at dawn...**

**People hauled from their homes...**

**Arrested for peacefully protesting...**

But this wasn't Russia or North Korea. This was Sheffield in 2016 - under the Labour Party.

The debacle over Sheffield Labour Council's handling of our neighbourhood street trees brought shame and embarrassment on our city.

Labour bosses at the Town Hall were condemned by an official report for a “serious and sustained failure of strategic leadership”.

Sheffield Hallam's current Labour MP Olivia Blake was deputy Leader of the Council at the height of the Street Tree crisis.

And many in the city haven't forgiven the way Labour politicians acted over this issue.

Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed was at the forefront of the opposition to Labour's Street Tree felling scheme. He, like many, believe this terrible episode must never be repeated.

Shaffaq said: “Whilst I obviously wish that the whole affair never happened, standing alongside so many brave and passionate campaigners was one of the most inspiring moments for me as local councillor.

“Sir Mark Lowcock's report shows how out of touch Labour are in Sheffield. It highlights the need for decency, transparency and accountability. We need those at the top listen and work with residents - not against them.”





## COST OF LIVING



Shaffaq is working with councillors Penny Baker and Vickie Priestley to help families with the cost of living crisis

# “The Government has abandoned people in a time of urgent need.”

**Food prices are rising, interest rates are rocketing and taxes are going up.**

Meanwhile, the Conservative Government has abandoned its promise to increase pensions, leaving 20,000 older residents in Sheffield worse off.

**With inflation and interest rates rising, times are becoming harder for everyone.**

“Almost every day I hear from someone who

just doesn't know how they're going to pay the next bill,” says Shaffaq Mohammed.

“These people have been abandoned by the Government. We need action to make sure these price rises don't become the new normal.

“So many people in Sheffield are being hit by the interest rate rises. The Bank of England are forcing people with either variable rate mortgages, or whose fixed-rate deals are coming to an end, to shoulder the burden of dealing with inflation. This isn't fair.

The Lib Dems are calling for a Mortgage Protection Fund, which would offer targeted support of up to £300 a month to those families facing the steepest rise in mortgage costs and facing losing their homes.

We are also calling for the competition watchdog to launch an inquiry into profiteering by supermarkets, as part of a plan to bring down food prices for struggling families.

**“I will fight every day to get the support people need to make it through this. People are struggling right now. Action can't wait.”**



# “I’ve got a degree in Business - I know when something doesn’t add up”

As the Conservative Party crashes the economy, Shaffaq Mohammed reflects on how Sheffield Labour are failing to help us locally.

Sheffield City Council is cutting vital services locally whilst wasting money on vanity projects in the city centre.

Shaffaq Mohammed is fighting for change.

Labour just keep wasting our money. The shipping container park was just one example of a Labour vanity project that spiralled out of control.

They wasted over £500,000 on the Fargate Container Park. In a cost of living crisis this is a disgrace!

But sadly, this isn’t the first time Labour have wasted your cash.

Shaffaq wants investment in Sheffield’s leisure services.

“To be fair Sheffield



Shaffaq didn’t need his business degree to prove Labour’s shipping containers plan was a bad idea

Labour did invest huge sums into leisure centres. The problem is that they weren’t leisure centres in Sheffield. They spent Sheffield taxpayers’ money in Scarborough! You couldn’t make it up!”

**“Labour spent Sheffield taxpayers’ money in Scarborough”**

It’s not just taxpayers who are losing out under Labour,

local businesses are too. Labour had to hand millions of pounds of unspent Coronavirus business support grants back to the Government.

Shaffaq added: “It’s just another example of incompetence. Other cities made sure their businesses got what they were entitled to, Sheffield’s businesses lost out.”



## Did you know?

Sheffield Hallam’s hard-left MP was one of 32 Labour MPs to call for Jeremy Corbyn to be re-instated to the Labour Parliamentary Party and she is backed locally by Momentum.



# 712 votes in it...!

## The race to be Sheffield Hallam's next MP is neck and neck.

Our next MP will either be

**Lib Dem Shaffaq Mohammed**

**or Labour's hard left MP.**

It's a two horse race.

**Labour**  
**19,709**

**Lib Dem**  
**18,997**

**Cons**  
**14,696**

This was the number of votes per party across the Sheffield Hallam constituency at the last election in 2019. It's Lib Dem or Labour here.

Whatever happens across the rest of the country, only the Lib Dems or Labour can win here.